

Serial No.: 10/628,318
Docket No.: GMC 0047 PA/40320.52

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17-27 and 29-45 are pending. Claims 42-45 are allowed. Claims 1-10, 12, 14-15, 18-20, 23-25, 31-41 are rejected. The examiner indicated claims 11, 13, 16-17, and 26-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 17, and 33 have been amended herein, for clarification. Claims 16 and 28 are canceled. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-10, 12, 14-15, 18-20, 31, 33, and 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Isono et al (US 6,365,293) in view of Yasumoto et al (US 2003/0198860). Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Isono and Yasumoto further in view of Fuglevand et al (US 6,939,636). Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Isono and Yasumoto further in view of Wood, III et al (US 6,350,539). Claims 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Isono and Yasumoto further in view of Johnson et al (US 5,840,438). Claims 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Isono and Yasumoto further in view of Mussell et al (US 5,620,807). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

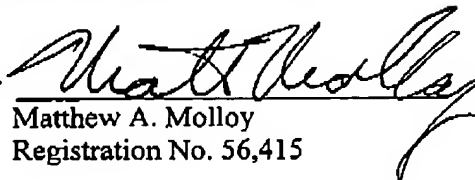
Independent claims 1 and 33 are amended herein, without admission, to incorporate the claim elements of canceled claims 16 and 28, which were indicated allowable by the examiner. Claims 1 and 33 both recite a device configured to convert a hydrogenous fuel source to electrical energy comprising, *inter alia*, a mesoporous layer, which is carried along a reduced thickness portion of at least one of the first and second diffusion media substrates and/or at least partially infiltrates at least one of the first and second diffusion media substrates. As the examiner states in the office action, the cited references fail to teach a "mixture layer along a reduced thickness portion of the gas diffusion layer or a mixture layer that infiltrates the gas diffusion layer". See 3/02/06 Office Action, page 8, ¶ 8. Accordingly, the applicant asserts that claims 1 and 33 and all other claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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